



SWW DTP responses to your process related queries

Award numbers, funding and studentship details

How many studentships are being offered by the SWW DTP for September 2018 entry?

The SWW DTP is offering up to 60 studentships for entry in September 2018. The awards will be made on the basis of academic merit, with no fixed quota assigned to any one research topic, institution or subject area within the DTP. There is no upper age limit for applicants to the DTP.

This year, in addition to the standard studentship competition, the SWW DTP is issuing a call for applications for Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs). All CDA applications will be considered in the open competition.

In previous years the DTP has received circa. 400 applications per competition round.

What is the duration of the studentship?

The standard duration of a DTP studentship award is for 3 years of doctoral study (or part-time equivalent) with the possibility of up to a further 0.5 year of funding available for placements and intensive skills development. The DTP does not offer funding for Masters (1+3).

Please note that a student who has already commenced doctoral study may apply for funding for the remainder of their study, providing that, at the start of the AHRC award, they will have at least 50% of their period of study remaining (excluding the fourth 'writing up' year).

Is there any additional support for disabled students?

Research Councils UK (RCUK) Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) are intended to help with additional expenditure for the costs of study-related requirements that may be incurred as a result of disability, mental health problem or specific learning difficulty that means additional support is needed to undertake a Research Council funded studentship. The allowances can cover the cost of non-medical personal assistance, items of specialist equipment, extra travel costs and general expenses.

Your home university is responsible for undertaking DSA needs assessments – if you think you may be eligible for this support then please contact your university's Disability Advisor or equivalent for further advice.

Additional information can be found here: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/skills/training/>



Can I apply to multiple DTPs/funding bodies?

Yes, applicants can apply to more than one AHRC DTP and/or other funding bodies in order to maximise their chances of securing funding for their doctoral study. Please note however that it is not permissible for a student to hold two awards concurrently for the same purpose.

On what criteria do you decide if a stipend will be provided to EU students and when is the decision made?

The consortium has a finite amount of funding it can use to provide a stipend to EU awardees. We will confirm whether the stipend made by the DTP to EU awardees will be a full (100%) stipend, or part of the full stipend, on or just after the deadline for accepting the awards - Friday 27th April, when we know how many EU applicants have accepted the award from us.

Application

Can I modify the proposed research topic I included in my Information Session registration for the application proper?

Yes, that's fine. Please note that once you have submitted your studentship application proper, you will not be able to edit the contents.

What language should the application be written in?

The DTP application should be written in British English.

My project will include a performance/live art element, how can I provide a good representation of my work in my creative portfolio?

The application system allows you to upload a variety of documentation including audio and video files. The application system will go live on Monday 27th November - please create an account to review the additional documentation you are able to append to your application.

Does the DTP have a preference for interdisciplinary applications?

No, the DTP equally welcomes both single-subject and interdisciplinary applications.

Do I have to decide whether I want to undertake a placement during the application process?

No, applications are neither marked up nor down on the basis of having, or not having, placement plans included. Please see your subject Panel Chair video for more information.

Do placements have to directly relate to my project?

No, placements can be undertaken to develop new skills related to your project but also to develop broader employability skills.



Assessment

How are applications assessed?

Applicants applying to the DTP must submit two applications – one to their choice of home university for a place on a course of study, and one to the DTP for the studentship. Applicants do not need to make an application to their co-supervising university.

Applications are assessed by a panel of subject experts from across the DTP consortium. **Please see your subject Panel Chair video for more information.**

An applicant's supervisor or referee is unable to take part in the assessment, to avoid conflict of interest.

Please note that if you progress to the final stage of assessment you will be required to attend an interview with the panel in week commencing Monday 12th March.

SWW DTP Co-supervision

In most cases SWW DTP students have two supervisors, and are co-supervised across two different universities within the consortium (one supervisor at each institution) with supervision split equally between the supervisors. Students are automatically granted access to the systems and resources of their co-supervisory institution as well as those of their home institution. These arrangements are approved by all SWW DTP universities.

SWW DTP co-supervision allows our students unrivalled access across institutional boundaries to the most relevant and cutting-edge expertise on offer across our consortium, ensuring an exceptional breadth and depth of coverage for their project. However, if there is an academic case for supervision based within one university, or to have more than two supervisors, then applicants can explain this in their application. In all cases supervisory teams are led by the needs of the project and the arrangement which will best support the student in question. This includes building a supervisory team from two different disciplines as well as the possibility of requesting a co-supervisor from outside the subjects supported by the DTP providing the home supervisor is based in one of the DTP's supported subjects (e.g. a home supervisor from English and a co-supervisor from Computer Science).

Applicants should approach potential supervisors at the earliest opportunity and there is no expectation that applicants will have had prior contact with the academics or institutions concerned. Please speak to all proposed supervisors before submitting their name in the DTP's application, to make sure the academics in question are willing and able to supervise.

In the event that you are successful in obtaining an award but before starting your studentship, wish to change your supervisory team/institution(s), a rationale for the change will need to be provided which will be considered by the SWW DTP Management Board.

Do I need to be resident at both of my co-supervising universities?

As a student supervised by two institutions, you will be expected to make yourself available at both locations, if necessary.



You are expected to reside within a reasonable travelling distance from your home institution to ensure that you are able to maintain regular contact with your department and your home supervisor. This is to ensure that you are not isolated and get the full support, mentoring, training and access to facilities you need to complete your research successfully and to a high standard. The only exceptions to these requirements are to cover periods of absence that are an essential part of your study e.g. fieldwork, study visits or conference attendance.

Access and Support

As a SWW DTP student, what access would I have at other institutions within the SWW DTP that are not my home or co-supervisory institution?

SWW DTP students have access to each SWW DTP institution's subject, researcher and professional skills training. Regardless of where you are registered to study or which institution offers the training, you can apply to undertake any of the modules available at our consortium institutions that may be of value to you. Details of the training on offer at each of the SWW DTP institutions can be found here: <https://www.sww-ahdtp.ac.uk/consortium-training/>. SWW DTP students can also access the libraries, archives and collections at all SWW DTP institutions.

Can I access archives that are not part of the SWW DTP institutions or listed partners?

Students are free to arrange access to archives across the UK and abroad and can apply for funding to support these activities (see below).

Is there access to media studios?

Yes, a number of institutions within the SWW DTP have state of the art media studios. Please see Professor John Strachan's Management Board video on 'practice-led research' for more information.

Is there any extra funding available for research costs such as travel and for skills development opportunities?

Yes, you can apply to the SWW DTP for funding to support research costs such as travel, accommodation, conference attendance and research consumables. You can also apply for funding to undertake high-level methodological skills development that isn't available within the SWW DTP consortium and to undertake placements that will develop transferable employability skills.

SWW DTP Training and Placements

How are opportunities for extra training cultivated and how are individual training needs met?

Students undertake a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) in collaboration with their supervisors at the start of each academic year. The TNA is an annual assessment of each student's training requirements for the year ahead. The DTP uses the TNAs to identify both individual and cohort training needs.

Where an individual training need is identified and appropriate training is available within the consortium, the DTP will help the student access the relevant course. If no appropriate training is



available within the consortium, students can apply for funding to access the required training from outside the consortium.

Where multiple students identify similar training needs, the SWW DTP develops bespoke training to meet these needs resulting in a responsive programme of collaborative training that meets the changing needs of our cohort. This training not only allows students to develop their knowledge of particular research skills and methodologies, but also provides another opportunity for students to engage in interdisciplinary debate with their peers and experts in the field.

In addition to the responsive training outlined above, SWW DTP students take part in the Professional Arts and Humanities Researcher Programme (PAHRP) which provides an introduction to the approaches, methods and skills that are essential for the 21st century Arts and Humanities Researcher. Dr Wendy Matthews provides more information on this programme in our Management Board video on SWW DTP training and research outputs.

Do studentships include teaching experience?

Teaching opportunities are normally arranged as part of your PhD programme at your home institution.

Are new research clusters made every year based on the 60 new studentships?

The clusters are student-led and adaptive to the needs of each cohort. Students are actively encouraged to set up new interdisciplinary clusters based on changing research interests of the SWW DTP cohort as a whole.

Will SWW DTP encourage round tables and information sharing between PhD candidates?

In addition to the extensive activities undertaken by the research clusters which are designed to encourage discussion and information sharing between SWW DTP students, the DTP also develops and supports conferences, training events and socials that encourage interaction across cohorts, the wider PGR community, non-HEI SWW DTP partners, and beyond.

Can I undertake placements/collaborate with the institutions that are partnered with the SWW DTP?

SWW DTP students are able to undertake two types of placement during their studentship, those that provide specific project-related research opportunities or the learning of methodological skills that directly relate to the completion of a student's project, and placements that focus on the development of transferable career and employability skills. Placement organisations do not have to be a formal partner of the SWW DTP.

Some students prefer to contact their preferred partner organisation directly to discuss their interests and the potential for any collaborative activity, but the Hub can also help facilitate such communications once a student has begun their study, if preferred.

Full collaboration with a non-HEI partner organisation on a research project (i.e. where the organisation directly inputs into the research through supervision and provision of resources) is



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facilitated through our Collaborative Doctoral Awards which are offered with specific partner organisations. Please see <https://www.sww-ahdtp.ac.uk/sww-dtp-collaborative-doctoral-awards-cdas/> for details of these opportunities.

How long can a placement be?

The length of a placement will be determined by the activity being undertaken – the minimum length of a placement is 1 week and the maximum is 6 months.